

**LASER ADDRESSABLE THERMAL  
TRANSFER IMAGING ELEMENT WITH AN INTERLAYER**

*which is a con of 10/219,427 of 15/02 Pat 6582,877*

This is a continuation of Serial No. 10/440,689, filed May 19, 2003, which is a continuation of Serial No. <sup>09/738,735</sup> ~~09/738,775~~, filed December 15, 2000, <sup>now Pat 6582,877</sup> which is a <sup>6461,793</sup> continuation of Serial No. 09/553,294, now Pat. No. 6,270,934, filed April 20, 2000, which is a continuation of Serial No. 09/349,329, now Pat. No. 6,099,994, filed July 8, 1999, which is a continuation of Serial No. 09/031,941, now Pat. No. 5,981,136, filed February 27, 1998, which is a divisional of Serial No. 08/632,225, now Pat. No. 5,725,989, filed April 15, 1996.

**FIELD OF INVENTION**

This invention relates to thermal transfer imaging elements, in particular, to laser addressable thermal transfer elements having an interlayer between a radiation-absorbing/thermal conversion layer and a transferable layer. In addition, the invention relates to a method of using the thermal transfer element in a thermal transfer system such as a laser addressable system.

**BACKGROUND**

With the increase in electronic imaging information capacity and use, a need for imaging systems capable of being addressed by a variety of electronic sources is also increasing. Examples of such imaging systems include thermal transfer, ablation (or transparentization) and ablation-transfer imaging. These imaging systems have been shown to be useful in a wide variety of applications, such as, color proofing, color filter arrays for liquid crystal display devices, printing plates, and reproduction masks.

The traditional method of recording electronic information with a thermal transfer imaging medium utilizes a thermal printhead as the energy source. The information is transmitted as electrical energy to the printhead causing a localized heating of a thermal transfer donor sheet which then transfers material corresponding to the image data to a receptor sheet. The two primary types of thermal transfer donor